

REMARKS

The rejections of Claims 1, 5-9, 14-18, and 35-45 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. 5,533,678 (Strauch et al), taken with an article in Elastomerics, December 1991 (Hertz), and under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Strauch et al alone; and the rejections of Claims 1-9, 15-18, and 35-45 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by, and of Claims 1-9, 15, and 35-45 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over, U.S. 5,896,904 (Ozaki et al), are respectfully traversed.

Claim 17 prior to the above amendment, and now amended Claim 1, is deemed to be unpatentable over both Strauch et al and Ozaki et al. Nevertheless, neither Strauch et al nor Ozaki et al discloses or suggests a sealant or coating or adhesive which comprises a rheology regulator comprising a natural calcium carbonate, crushed to a high degree of fineness, with a specific surface area of around 14 to 30 m<sup>2</sup>/g measured according to the BET method to ISO 4652, wherein when 50-100% of a precipitated calcium carbonate present in a polyvinyl chloride-based plastisol is replaced with said rheology regulator, and said plastisol is subjected to a viscosity test according to DIN 125 at 20°C, the viscosity at 300 s<sup>-1</sup> is less than the viscosity obtained for the plastisol containing said precipitated calcium carbonate, and which rheology regulator further comprises a polyurethane with terminal silane groups and a plasticiser of the phthalate type.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejections over the prior art be withdrawn.

All of the presently-pending, active claims in this application are now believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

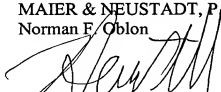
Customer Number

**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 06/04)

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.  
Norman F. Oblon



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Harris A. Pitlick  
Registration No. 38,779